Best and Worst Pension Defaults, Named

How the 12 biggest UK providers' default funds score on climate — and why even the best is 'inadequate'.

Make My Money Matter's February 2025 Climate Action Report scored the 12 largest UK workplace-pension providers' defaults out of 10. The average was **just 4.5/10 ("inadequate")**. Here's the league table:

Provider (default)	Climate score /10	Band
Nest	**5.8**	**Top half**
Aviva	**5.5**	**Top half**
NOW: Pensions	**5.5**	**Top half**
Smart Pension	**5.4**	**Top half**
Legal & General	**4.8**	**Bottom half**
Scottish Widows	**4.7**	**Bottom half**
Aegon	**4.6**	**Bottom half**
Cushon	**3.9**	**Bottom half**
The People's Pension	**3.7**	**Bottom half**
Fidelity	**3.6**	**Bottom half**
Standard Life	**3.5**	**Bottom half**
Royal London	**3.3**	**Bottom half**

The headline that matters: even Nest, the "best" of the giants, scored only 5.8 — and its default still holds Shell, BP, TotalEnergies and Equinor. **Royal London came last at 3.3.** Not one of these defaults excludes fossil-fuel producers, so the league table is really 'least bad to worst,' not 'good to bad.' The greener-built defaults (Cushon, Standard Life, Smart, NOW:) score better on construction but still hold some oil — see the Top-20 Playbook for the full red/amber/green picture.

General information, not financial advice. Scores: Make My Money Matter, UK Pensions Climate Action Report (Feb 2025) — a campaign assessment, point-in-time. Provider defaults change with ongoing consolidation.